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Steering Wheel Returnability Software Design Using LabVIEW 7.0

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Steering Wheel Returnability Software Design

Using
LabVIEW 7.0

By
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April 25, 2006

ECET 491 Spring 2006
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ABSTRACT

The design of a Returnability program using LabVIEW 7.0 for International Truck & Engine, (ITE) is the basis of this senior design project. This project is going to focus on the need for test engineers to measure the effectiveness of the steering wheel's ability to return to the center when a driver has turned the wheel in either direction and then released. This report discusses the problem analysis, research methods, and characteristics of what the software design analyzes.

Currently, ITE does not have enough staff to create a returnability program so they are using an alternative method to test their vehicles. That is why this senior design project provides a better method of acquiring data using a real-time data acquisition system configuration.

The Society of Automotive Engineers' (SAE) database has shown that many semi-truck manufacturers are not too concerned with steering wheel returnability. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers' (IEEE) database had no information relating to this topic. The most informative source from SAE's database was from Mitsubishi Electric Corporation. However, their method of controlling returnability, Electrical Power Steering (EPS), is more expensive than the current author's method.

This senior design project concludes that the completed program speeds up the process of testing steering wheels for returnability. This senior design project recommends that ITE continue to use this program and edit some parts of it for future data acquisition systems.

Keywords: returnability, steering wheel, SAE, EPS, data acquisition system, steering mechanism, turns, semi-truck.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. CHAPTER I- INTRODUCTION	6
Problem topic	
Background	
Criteria & Parameters	
Methodology	
Primary Purpose	
Overview	
II. CHAPTER II- OVERVIEW OF DESIGN	11
Program Design (Events)	
Alternative Solution	
Schedule	
Budget	
III. CHAPTER III- HARDWARE COMPONENT	19
Definition of all hardware	
Data Acquisition Modules	
Sensors and Transducers	
Data Acquisition Block Diagram	
IV. CHAPTER IV- PROJECT MANAGEMENT	28
Schedule	
Budget	
V. CHAPTER V- RESULTS OF TESTING	32
Signal Measurements	
VI. CHAPTER VI- CONCLUSION	34
REFERENCES	35
APPENDIX A- TABLES	36
APPENDIX B- DATA SHEETS	38

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<u>TABLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Run Configuration	14
Equipment cost	32
 <u>FIGURE</u>	 <u>PAGE</u>
Setup screen data flow	11
ProgramSetup2.vi	12
MainVI2.vi hierarchy	12
MainVI2.vi	13
Rerun Message.vi	15
Run_SummarySubvi.vi	16
Edit_CommentSubvi.vi	17
SCXI-1000DC	20
SCXI-1102/1100	21
SCXI-1126	22
STI Series GT1600	23
FTB-202 Flow Meter	24
FLSC-28 Signal Conditioner	24
Model 01227	25
MPU 5MT2033C	25
MPU Attached to Gear Teeth	26
Shaevitz R120LC RVIT	27
General Block Diagram	27
Detailed block diagram	28
Tentative Schedule	30
Gantt chart	31
Engine On- data file	34
Engine Off- data file	35